

**R-5 CAC MEETING**  
**May 15, 2007**

**CAC Members:** Doug Haacke, Mike Whittington, Doug Dreeszen, Greg Keller, Dan Dutton

**Guest Speakers & Staff:** Larry Peterman, T. O. Smith, Gary Hammond, Harold Guse, Doug Habermann, Jim Darling, Jenny Pelej, Dianne Stiff

CAC Member Feedback:

Doug Haacke –

- With the continual drought situation in Montana, the overcrowding issue on the Bighorn River is becoming evident. FWP needs to get a jump on this.
- Road grading at the Bighorn FAS and possibility of getting a phone in there.

Dan Dutton –

- Out of state hunters concerned about the time between applying for tags and getting notified.
- Nonresident hunters compliment Region 5's block management system, but then contact Region 7 that is managed differently. Would like more consistency between regions.
- Question on an article on poaching in the last issue of Montana Outdoors Magazine. Talked about the penalties for the poachers, but wondered what the landowner's penalties were?
- Complimentary of FWP's online licensing system and nonresidents really like our system.

Greg Keller –

- Question on what the fine would be if a person signs up for 2 places on the same day in block management?
- Anything new with stream access as an outcome from the legislature?

Mike Whittington –

- Received an e-mail from the Montana Wildlife Federation approving the \$1 million for wildlife grants in Montana.
- The Magic City Flyfishers Board supports including rainbow trout in possession limit on the Bighorn River.
- The Beartooth Alliance Board is fully supportive of the Goose Creek EA. Let them know ahead of time if volunteer can help with this project.
- The Bighorn River is seeing symptoms similar to the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers. There was an advisory committee developed that got a river recreation management plan adopted for the Big Hole and Beaverhead. Lack of data on these rivers was a point of frustration for the committee. Would like to see an updated management plan done on the Bighorn River, but need to complete an

assessment project on the Bighorn River data. Would like Charlie Sperry to meet with Region 5 staff, Doug Haacke and Mike to discuss concept.

Doug Dreezen –

- The storm over the weekend brought down tree limbs at two fishing access sites – Gritty Stone and Voyagers Rest.
- Complaints from other hunters that the big game hunting regulations are getting more confusing.
- Question on the outfitting bill passed in the legislature.

Fort Peck Hatchery Funding Committee - Two nominations from the R-5 CAC for this statewide committee are Doug Haacke and Mike Whittington.

Legislative Update – Larry Peterman

- Handed out “A New Approach to an Old Line of Work” to CAC members as a resource for answering questions on Montana’s wolf management plan.
- Using FWP’s Legislative Tracking Summary Sheet, Larry highlighted some of the more interesting bills from this session:
  - Just today the state’s budget bills were finally adopted. We get our \$1 million match for SWG grants; \$10 million was approved for FAS/State Park acquisition; and an additional \$1 million for shooting ranges throughout the state.
  - HB 38 authorizing the FWP Commission to issue reduced-priced licenses for antlerless moose, cow or calf bison and adult ewe mountain sheep will utilize hunters for reducing herd size in areas.
  - HB 71 failed, but was an important bill requiring completion of a Trapper’s Safety and Education Course in order to purchase a trapping license. We’ll be seeing more literature from anti-trapping groups in our state. Plans are to try again next session on this legislation.
  - The “poachers package” passed. Bills that were a part of this package include HB 115, 226, and SB 115.
  - HB 116 passed which makes the Future Fisheries program a viable program again.
  - HB 364 creates a board to come up with the dollars that are currently being funded by the Defenders of Wildlife for reimbursement of livestock loss by wolves.
  - SB 44 adds buffalo, antelope and mountain lion to the super tag big game list.
  - SB 58 did not pass, so the state will no longer manage prairie dogs. Some groups are already arguing for listing the prairie dog for its protection.
  - SB 314 passed which requires anyone who is “fishing” in waters listed as requiring the warm water stamp to have one.

Energy Development in Montana – T. O. Smith

- This presentation addresses what energy development is and what it impacts.
- FWP’s position is conserve fish and wildlife in the state of Montana.
- Montana is the number 1 state in wind power and coal power potential.
- Lesser impacts are wind, transmission, bio-fuels and clean coal.

- Greater impacts, which are FWP's focal point, are gas development. This includes deep gas along the Rock Mtn. Front and east of Miles City, shallow gas in the northern part of the state and coal bed methane in the southeastern part of Montana.
- Energy development is "real" in Montana and will create more impact within the next 10 years compared to the last 50 years.
- In order to protect the fish and wildlife of the state, FWP needs a new model that does not look like Wyoming or Alberta Canada.
- The leaders and people of Montana are going to need to push for a new model to will properly protect Montana's resources using the best science and technology.

Next CAC Meeting – Gary will schedule later for sometime during the middle of August.